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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF CHAD, NIGER, NIGERIA AND THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

Four Agricultural Development Centres in the Lake Chad Basin (Supplementary Assistance) (RAF/71/269)

Report of the Administrator*

Date of present approval:	May 1979
Starting date of project activities:	April 1972 (Including previous assistance)
Planned completion date :	December 1980
To be executed by:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Government implementing agency:	Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC)
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval:	$1 762 500
Source of UNDP financing:	Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. In 1964, Chad, Niger, Nigeria, and the United Republic of Cameroon established the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) as an instrument for the four countries' joint efforts to develop the Lake Chad Basin on the basis of its water and other resources.

*in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of $250,000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by Government or by third-party cost sharing).

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2. The weak and erratic rainfall in the area, later dramatized by the drought in 1973, makes irrigated agriculture the only method for developing a good and consistent local crop food supply for humans and livestock. Experimentation with irrigated agriculture started in pilot areas with the UNDP-financed project, Survey of the Water Resources of the Chad Basin (AFR/REG/79), with good results. AFR/REG/79 was followed by this project, which started under preparatory assistance in April 1972; full-scale activities were approved in July 1974[1/]. The long-term objective is to establish large irrigated agricultural complexes as well as small-scale farmers's co-operatives to meet local food requirements, produce industrial crops and livestock fodder and halt the rural exodus. The present project extension serves the same purpose

3. It should be emphasized that the project, restricted to a limited area, is of a pilot nature and should, if successful, pave the way for similar efforts elsewhere in the Basin with financing from various sources. In 1977, a multi-donor mission with some 40 specialists[2/] was sent to the Basin area to identify projects for immediate implementation, while waiting for the results of a study on medium-and long-term strategy to be completed. The mission recommended continuation of this ongoing project. It is in accordance with this recommendation and at the request of LCBC that UNDP assistance is now being extended through 1980.

II. Objectives and activities

4. The immediate objectives of the project are, on the basis of one agricultural development centre in each participating country, to: (a) develop specified irrigated perimeters for cultivation - partly by small-scale farmers and partly by the centres themselves; (b) conduct applied research; and (c) extend modern cropping methods and improved seed varieties to farmers.

III. Inputs

5. UNDP will provide the services of eleven experts in 1979 and 1980 (heads of three centres, agronomists, engineers and mechanics), administrative support, fellowships, provisions for group training and equipment.

1/ DP/16/Add/116 and DP/PROJECTS/196.

2/ Provided by France, Italy, Netherlands, the United States, the European Economic Community, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, FAO and UNDP.

IV. Financial data

6. The expenditure components of the planned assistance are as follows:

	Previously approved	Present approval	Total approved
	$	$	$
Personnel	1 784 700	1 279 800	3 064 500
Training	60 000	29 100	89 100
Equipment	1 159 700	389 000	1 548 700
Miscellaneous	165 200	64 600	229 800
	3 169 600	1 762 500	4 932 100

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